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**ADDITIONAL PHONE LINE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO HELP
COMMUTERS FIND TRAVEL OPTIONS DURING MTA STRIKE**

Los Angeles, CA---Due to the unusually high volume of calls to the “1-800-COMMUTE” phone line, commuters are urged to call the alternate line, 1-800-286-RIDE, for free carpooling and transit information. They will reach a Southern California Rideshare operator who can provide a list of possible carpool partners based on where the commuter lives and works and on his or her work schedule, as well as referrals to alternate transit providers servicing the caller’s area.

Rideshare information, along with links to alternate transit sites including Metrolink, Foothill Transit, DASH and Commuter Express buses, and others are also available on the Southern California Rideshare web site at www.socalcommute.org.

More than a quarter-million people are currently registered in the Southern California Rideshare database, making it the largest such “pool” of potential carpoolers in the nation.

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“Particularly for those reliant on transit to get to and from work, carpooling can be a viable alternative,” said Jim Sims, director of Southern California Rideshare.

“Carpooling in fact is the number one alternative to driving alone in Southern California, with one in four commuters sharing the ride at least once a week. It can help bridge the transportation gap for the transit-dependent during the period of a strike.”

Metro bus and rail service was suspended as of Saturday, Sept. 16 when the unions of the nation’s second largest transit provider in the nation went on strike.

Southern California Rideshare, which has provided commute assistance to commuters and employers since 1974, serves Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. It is a service of the Southern California Association of Governments.

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